

Approved For Release 1999/09/07 : CIA-RDP7

MAY 22 1961

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U.S. Peace Corps Dedication Accented

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Though enthusiastic public discussion of the Peace Corps has lessened somewhat since the early days of the Kennedy administration, there is nevertheless a continuing, cool analysis of the corps and the difficulties it may face when it moves to action later this year.

Such an analysis came from a panel discussion on "Mobilization of Youth" at the third annual conference of the Society for International Development in Washington recently.

Dr. Max Millikan, director of the Center for International Studies at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, questioned whether American Peace Corps workers would be heavily indoctrinated about "the American way of life."

Dedication Stressed

"They will be the most effective ambassadors if they have a single-minded dedication to the job they have to do," he said. Each worker will have his own concept of the American way, and should simply go out and put it to practice, recognizing that he will have to face embarrassing questions about life in the United States, Dr. Milli-

kan added. We are a many-faceted society because we are a free society, he continued, and therefore it might be "disastrous" to define an American doctrine and then attempt to preach it.

Such preaching might unnecessarily involve the corps work in cold-war disputes and thus detract from the task at hand: helping people to live better. Further, Peace Corps people would not feel deeply a doctrine that was handed down to them.

Harlan Cleveland, Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs, touched on what he called "the ethical problem of being immersed in others' affairs." Some observers have suggested that the Peace Corps will draw fire for "meddling" in the underdeveloped lands.

Content Not Enough

The mere fact that the government of a developing nation "consents" to the presence of a Peace Corps team is not enough, Mr. Cleveland said. There must be within the local people who contact the corps "a feeling for the felt need." The peasant, as well as the government, must understand why the corps is a good thing for him.

Harold B. Minor, former em-

bassador to Lebanon and now president of American Friends of the Middle East, Inc., agreed: "Any widespread use of a youth corps abroad is inadvisable and even dangerous. This view is based not on difficulties of recruitment, of availability of competent persons, or on the health and other hazards of service in faraway... places. It arises rather out of a belief that there must first be laid down the mutuality of interest between peoples wherein such programs can flourish... (such as) in Europe under the Marshall Plan.

By and large, any wide use of the Peace Corps abroad will be met with suspicion or even

charges that this is another American 'gimmick' to further the cold war. . . . Our real need now is to build policies which are comprehensible to the developed world which in turn will lay the foundations for such activities (as the Peace Corps) in times to come."

Warren Wiggins, deputy director of the Peace Corps, pointed out that up to now, the United States Government has been providing teachers of teachers in its aid programs. In the Peace Corps, the United States Government will be sending out "doers" for the first time—people who will work with the natives in the host countries.

It was announced at the meeting that the proposal of an International Peace Corps will be discussed this summer at a meeting of the United Nations Economic and Social Council.